



a quarterly publication of Ambassador Baptist College

THE AMBASSADOR

Winter 2010

I THANK MY GOD UPON EVERY REMEMBRANCE OF YOU

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT, BY EVANGELIST ALTON BEAL

The Thanksgiving holiday is one of my most favorite times of the year. Here at ABC, we hold an annual praise chapel the day before Thanksgiving; it usually lasts for two or three hours and is filled with testimonies from students and faculty members of God's goodness and blessings. In recent days, I have been meditating on the book of Philippians. Early in the first chapter, Paul told the Philippians, "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you." He had a special place in his heart for them. Later in the book, Paul mentioned how the church at Philippi was a special blessing to him in the time of need.

Has God ever brought people into your life to be a special blessing to you? My heart echoes Paul's sentiments in Philippians 1:3 when I think of one such person. His name was Harold England. Whenever I think of him, my soul swells with gratitude to God.

When I was a young child, my mom would catch a ride to take me to a Baptist church in the area for Easter and Christmas services. During that time, I became acquainted with Harold England. While I remember very little about him from those early years, I have no doubt that he manifested a genuine concern for my soul.

A few years later, Brother England showed up on my doorstep on a Saturday morning with some other gentlemen and asked me if I would come to church with them the next day. These men remind me of the four men who carried the man sick with the palsy to Jesus in Mark 2. I couldn't drive to church, but some men were

willing to take me. After talking to my parents and getting their permission, I told the men "yes."

When I got to church the next day, I was introduced to something called "Junior Church." Although I had never been to it before, I loved it. I enjoyed being around kids my age, and I appreciated the lessons that were put "on my level" so I could understand them. Little did I know that Harold England would preach many messages to me as a child. I still remember his preaching on God's omniscience, omnipresence, and omnipotence. He took profound characteristics about God and made them so simple. I also remember another lesson about being a shining light for Jesus Christ. He used a very vivid object lesson to teach us to shine for Jesus Christ. Only the Lord knows the many hours he put into study and visiting to help us children understand the Gospel, while still driving a truck for many hours during the week.

I can still remember talking with him out in the church parking lot after church was dismissed. He would challenge us boys to foot races (even though he was at such a disadvantage with those big cowboy boots) and beat us! At times he could be so stern, but we always understood the love that was behind the discipline that he gave us. I look back to those days with great fondness.

Around the age of twelve, I trusted Christ as my Savior and eventually moved out of the junior church program. Even though I was no longer in his little flock, Preacher England still kept up with

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Selections from
Handel's
MESSIAH
presented by the ambassador baptist college
100-VOICE CHORALE

NOVEMBER 26 & 27, 2010
7:00 PM NIGHTLY **FREE ADMISSION** public invited
In the R.A. Torrey Auditorium on the ABC campus

THE ALETHEIA PROJECT

"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (John 17:17). This was a part of our Lord's prayer concerning His disciples. In this prayer, we learn that the means through which sanctification comes is God's Truth, the Word of God. Without God's Truth, believers will not mature, and the lost cannot be saved (Romans 10:17). It is our desire to help in the salvation of souls and the process of maturing His saints by making His Truth available through the medium of the internet to people of many different languages. For this reason, we chose to name our group the Aletheia Project since the Greek word *aletheia* means truth.



The Aletheia Project is a student-led organization associated with Ambassador Baptist College. We had our beginning on November 10, 2005, during a Mission Prayer Band meeting when Pastor Norman Johnston, the missions professor at Ambassador Baptist College, presented the idea of placing the Bible and other Christian resources on the internet. The Aletheia Project's mission statement is as follows: "Our mission is to use the Internet to reach the lost with the Gospel and to help believers to grow in grace." We endeavor to accomplish this by making language-specific websites containing not only the Bible but also many resources such as tracts, testimonies, discipleship materials, sermons, Christ-honoring music, and a list of good Independent Baptist churches that minister to people of that language.

Since 2005, the Aletheia Project has made four websites. The first website the Aletheia Project did was www.thefrenchbible.com, (also registered as www.labiblefrancaise.com). After finishing the French site, we made a website for the Aletheia Project (www.aletheiaproject.com) to explain who we are and what we do. In 2007, Armed Forces Baptist Missions approached us with idea of making a website geared towards the military. That idea then became our third website, www.heroesbible.com. The fourth website we made was done with the deaf in mind, and it is found at www.thedeafbible.com.

There are several projects on which we are currently working. One is a website in the Sranantongo language, one of the languages of Suriname. The Bible is available and has been formatted for the website, as well as many complementary materials. We are now working on designing the actual website. Another project that the Aletheia Project has undertaken is a website for the Slovenian language and a Slovenian dialect, Prekmurian. This work is especially exciting because the first Independent Baptist missionaries have only been in the country for a year, making this an especially needy field. We are also starting work on websites for Russian, Ukrainian, Urdu, and Portuguese.

Please pray for us as we try to spread the truth that we often take for granted as American Christians. There is much work involved in making a website, and all of us are busy as students. If you would like to know more about us, please feel free to visit any of our websites. Also, please tell others about our sites so they can see what the Lord is doing and benefit from the material.

Would you prefer to receive "The Ambassador" electronically rather than by "snail mail"? The Ambassador is now available by e-mail in PDF format. To change your subscription, visit www.ambassadors.edu/newsletter/ and request that your "Ambassador" subscription be changed from postal mail to e-mail format.

EARLY PAYMENT DISCOUNT

In light of the slow economic recovery and our desire to help students and families during these difficult days, Ambassador Baptist College will again double the early payment discount for this coming semester and will keep tuition and room and board at the current rates.

The tuition for full-time dorm students will remain \$2,964.00. The room and board for full-time dorm students will remain \$2,300.00.

The early payment discount for full-time dorm students will be doubled to \$100.00 on tuition, plus \$100.00 on room and board for a total discount of \$200.00. This discount does not apply to fees. Commuting students may receive \$100.00 discount on their tuition.

To receive the early payment discount, tuition must be paid in full for the entire semester and payment must be received in the business office no later than the end of the business day Friday, December 17, 2010.

PRAYER & PRAISE

In *everything* by
prayer and
supplication

Souls to be saved
at Messiah concerts

\$25,000 for facilities upgrades

God's provision
for ABC and our students

Enrollment for spring semester

with *thanksgiving*

New additions
to maintenance staff

God's blessings on our Baptist
Heritage Conference

Souls saved through the ministry
of weekend ensembles and groups

CONCEPTS OF PREACHING PROFESSORS ~ DR. CHARLES SURRETT PASTOR NATHAN DEATRICK AMBASSADOR BAPTIST COLLEGE

This four-hour winter module will explore the Biblical definition and models of preaching, give an overview of the history of Christian preaching, critique some modern pulpit trends, establish Biblical expectations for the sermon, and give each student the opportunity to develop an exhaustive series of sermons for a particular book or topic of the Bible.

January 3 – 7, 2011

Cost:

\$800 for Credit (4 hours of Masters-level credit)

\$200 for Audit

Special tuition discount for pastors of churches that support ABC monthly:
\$200 for Credit

Any interested student may audit the course.

To receive credit, the following criteria must be met:

- ABC graduates may enroll in the program if they have more than two years of ministry experience.
- Non-ABC graduates may enroll if they have more than ten years of ministry experience, have a bachelor's degree, and are in agreement with Ambassador's philosophy and doctrinal statement.

If you would like more information about the M.Min. program, please email info@ambassadors.edu. For specific questions about enrollment, please contact our Academic Dean Dr. Charles Surret at csurret@ambassadors.edu. For information about on-campus housing, email info@ambassadors.edu or call 704-434-0303.

For more information, visit www.ambassadors.edu/MastersModule/

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

me. We went to nursing home services together. Soon after I surrendered to preach the Gospel, he gave me one of the first Bible commentaries I had ever been given.

When I left for Bible college, I became even more detached from this dear saint. During one Christmas break, God burdened my heart to write those men that picked me up on the church van in those early days and thank them for what they did for me. I am so glad that I did.

Several years ago, Brother Harold started slowing down. Later, the doctors diagnosed him with a disease that would eventually rob him of his strength and mind. Just a few months ago, Brother

England went to be with the Lord Whom he told me about so many times. While the grave has separated us for a season, I will see him again one day.

God has put other people in my life who have touched me in a special way. He has put some in your life, too. During this season of Thanksgiving, why don't you take the time to thank God for them and then take a moment to write a note of thanks to those who have made a difference in your life? One day, you will wish that you had.

I pray that God will help our college family to have the same love and concern for souls that Harold England showed for me. "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you" (Philippians 1:3). 🙏

Meet our Newest Staff Member: Bob Christensen

Q: Let's start with your testimony: can you tell us about your salvation and family background?

A: I was raised in a Christian home in a rural area of central Michigan. I had godly parents who loved God's Word and were faithful to our local church. The summer before my senior year of high school I attended a week of teen camp. One night under deep conviction, I surrendered to God in faith and repentance. That was the night of my salvation.



Q: What is your educational background?

A: Following high school, I attended Grand Rapids Baptist College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, for one-and-a-half years. I then transferred to Michigan State University, where I graduated with a BS in Education and a major in Math and Science.

Q: You have been involved in several ministries prior to coming to ABC; can you tell us a little about those?

A: I began teaching/coaching at Woodcrest Baptist Academy in Fridley, Minnesota. While there I met Dr. Surret, who in a few years left to take a church in Dyer, Indiana. I joined the Dyer Baptist staff as Youth Pastor and served there for about six and a half years. God then moved us on to Camp Joy in Whitewater, Wisconsin. I started out as their Field Representative but eventually wore several other "hats" as well. Following my time at Camp Joy, I started and ran a construction business for about 12 years and also had the opportunity to help restart a church in Whitewater. In 2001, God provided an opportunity for us to join the staff at Tri-City Ministries in Independence, Missouri, as their Facility Manager. I was added to the Pastoral staff in 2003. The year before coming to ABC, I worked a secular job but was also called to serve as a part-time assistant pastor at Faith Baptist Church, a new work in Raymore, Missouri.

Q: How did God bring you to ABC?

A: My heart is to serve God with whatever He has put in my hand. When approached by Ambassador, I determined to look at the opportunity. Though I had a job with good potential, I wanted to see if God would give me a desire for this position. Diane and I were impressed with the focused emphasis that we saw: to get surrendered men and women equipped and out into ministries. In a relatively short time period, God gave us a desire for this position and made it clear that we should join the staff at ABC.

Q: What are your initial impressions of ABC's facilities?

A: I am impressed with what God has given us as a campus; I love the beauty of the setting and the many attractive areas and buildings. There have been many improvements and additions over the years, which afforded me a positive perception about our facility. Another thing that struck me right away is our potential to grow and expand in this location as God allows.

WE ALL HAVE ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

Through the years, many people have made the statement: "We all have room for improvement." That is certainly true of Ambassador. Every year, we evaluate the things that we do and seek to improve them for God's honor and glory. In the next edition of the newsletter, you will learn about some of these things.

However, there is a great need to make some improvements to the campus to help our guests and college family. Although we have been in our existing campus for only thirteen years, most of the buildings are 40–65 years old. Along with aging buildings comes the task of maintenance and upkeep.

Roger Williams Hall houses several classrooms for the missions and Christian education classes, as well as several faculty offices. The windows need to be replaced to increase the heating and cooling efficiency. By replacing the original windows, the college will save thousands of dollars in utility costs in the years to come.

The Paul Levin Activity Center houses the gymnasium and exercise room. The gym is commonly used for league games and special banquets. Paint has started to peel from the high ceiling and often sprinkles the floor below. The lighting system is not adequate and needs to be upgraded. On a number of occasions, balls have hit the bulbs in the fixtures and caused shattered glass to fall to the court below. By resurfacing the ceiling and replacing the old light fixtures, we should be able to fix these problems.



Every day, students walk under the walkway and awning system that connects several of the buildings with each other. A portion of the awning needs to be repaired to protect our guests and students as they travel from building to building. By repairing the roof of the awning, the life expectancy of the walkway should be extended for many years to come.

Just as we depend on signs to get us from one road to another, our visitors depend on signs to get them from the Alumni Commons to Spurgeon Hall. For years, we have had a need to install signage to identify each building and to list what can be found in each of them. This update will be a great help to our guests who are unfamiliar with the campus.

As you can see, we have some room for improvement. We estimate that it will cost \$25,000 to make these repairs and upgrades. We are praying that God will burden the hearts of many to help us with these needs. To contribute to this need, you may give a tax-deductible gift online at www.ambassadors.edu/donate, or you may mail a gift. Please be sure to designate it 2010 EOY Project.

RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED

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RON COMFORT EVANGELISTIC MINISTRY

NOVEMBER 2010 - JANUARY 2011

NOVEMBER

| | | | | |
|-------|--------------------------|------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| 14-19 | Maranatha Baptist Church | Pastor Kevan Bartlett | Charleston, WV | 304-984-9514 |
| 21-23 | Eastside Baptist Church | Pastor David Thomasson | Greenwood, SC | 864-229-1414 |

DECEMBER

| | | | | |
|----|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 5 | Calvary Baptist Church | Pastor Lloyd Penberthy | Lexington, SC | 803-359-6753 |
| 12 | Pine Grove Baptist Church | Pastor Greg Howell | Stockbridge, GA | 770-474-3482 |
| 19 | Open Bible Baptist Church | Pastor Larry Hummel | Sumter, SC | 803-481-9315 |

JANUARY

| | | | | |
|-------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| 2 | Laurel Baptist Church | Pastor Jonathan Blankenship | Charlotte, NC | 704-566-0323 |
| 9-13 | Southside Baptist Church | Pastor Kerry Nance | Tampa, FL | 813-837-3334 |
| 16-19 | Victory Baptist Church | Pastor Charles Ashley | Eustis, FL | 352-589-9227 |

Please check our website for updates to the itinerary at www.ambassadors.edu/PresidentsCorner/Comfort/

ALTON BEAL EVANGELISTIC MINISTRY

NOVEMBER 2010 - JANUARY 2011

NOVEMBER

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|-------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 14-17 | Red Lion Bible Church | Pastor Schmuck | Red Lion, PA | 717-244-3905 |
| 28 | Cornerstone Independent Baptist | Pastor Finley Cutshaw | Rocky Mount, NC | 252-937-3013 |

DECEMBER

| | | | | |
|--------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 5 (am) | Catawba Springs Christian Church | Pastor Chuck Woodruff | Apex, NC | 919-772-5079 |
| 5 (pm) | South Charlotte Baptist Church | Pastor Charlie Scott | Pineville, NC | 704-575-9507 |
| 10-12 | Shining Light Baptist Church | Pastor Tim Mason | Blairsville, GA | 706-745-3130 |

JANUARY

| | | | | |
|---------|------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|--------------|
| 23 (pm) | Friendship Baptist Church | Pastor Bob Vradenburg | Raleigh, NC | 919-876-0585 |
| 6 (am) | Northside Baptist Church | Pastor Mike Felber | Charleston, SC | 843-797-2690 |
| 6 (pm) | Kennerly Road Baptist Church | Pastor Gary Ledbetter | Irmo, SC | 803-732-9797 |

Please check our website for updates to the itinerary at www.ambassadors.edu/PresidentsCorner/Beal/

COMING EVENTS

TAC CONFERENCE
Saturday, November 13

MESSIAH CONCERTS
*Friday-Saturday,
November 26-27*

CHRISTMAS BREAK
December 19-January 7

MASTER OF MINISTRIES
MODULE
Monday-Friday, January 3-7

OPENING REVIVAL
Monday-Friday, January 10-14

SPRING BREAK
Saturday-Sunday, March 12-20

BIBLE CONFERENCE
Monday-Friday, March 21-25

FOUNDER'S DAY
Thursday, March 24